

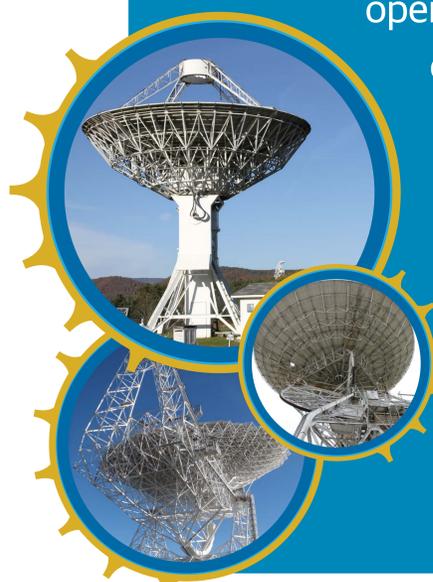


Environmental Impact Statement and Section 106 Consultation for Proposed Changes to Green Bank Observatory Operations

Green Bank, West Virginia

Alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS will be refined through public input. Preliminary proposed alternatives include the following:

- Collaboration with interested parties for science- and education-focused operations with reduced NSF-funded scope.
- Collaboration with interested parties for operations as a technology and education park.
- Mothballing of facilities (suspension of operations in a manner such that operations could resume efficiently at some future date).
- Deconstruction and site restoration
- Continued NSF investment for science-focused operations (No-Action Alternative)



Potential Resources to be considered:

An impact is a change or consequence that results from a proposed activity; it can be positive, negative or both. It may be mitigated to lessen or remove the impact. At present, NSF has preliminarily identified the following resource areas for analysis of potential impacts:

air quality

biological resources

traffic

geological resources

health and safety

solid waste generation

cultural resources

groundwater resources

socioeconomics

Section 106 Process for the Green Bank Observatory:

In coordination with the EIS, NSF will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties on potential effects to historic properties located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

- The APE is expected to be defined as the boundary of the existing Green Bank Observatory property.
- Consultation would be focused on identifying potential effects, if any, on historic properties eligible for listing or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If any potential effects are anticipated, consultation with Consulting Parties would occur to identify measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate those effects. Often those measures are memorialized in a Memorandum of Agreement.